

Melvin & Jerilyn Fairbanks
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State of Alaska
Local Boundary Commission
550 W. 7TH Avenue - Suite 1790
Anchorage, Alaska 99051

We are writing to express our opposition to the forming of a Prince of Wales Island Borough. I am a commercial fisherman and a 26 year resident of Prince of Wales Island. There hasn't been any stability in the fishing industry in years and the last few years have been near disastrous. I troll fish in the summer and shrimp in the winter. The shrimp season used to be open from October through February. The competition is so great now that the allowable quotas are being met earlier each year. Over the last few years we are lucky if the shrimp season lasts through the month of October. The closure of the Cold storage plant in Craig is a good indication of the profitability of the fishing industry.

By personal experience I can vouch for the economic instability of the fishing industry. Any dependence on the currently suffering fishing industry contributing financial support to help form a Prince of Wales Borough is one more road block to the survival of an already endangered industry.

Prince of Wales Islands' current economy and working population cannot afford the cost of forming and maintaining a Borough. The economic data in CHAPTER 3, APPLICATION OF BOROUGH STANDARDS is out dated and in no way reflects the true current economic conditions on Prince of Wales Island. We reaffirm our adamant objection to placing any more financial burdens on the working residents of Prince of Wales at this time.

Sincerely,


Melvin & Jerilyn Fairbanks

cc: Representative, Albert Kookesh
Senator Georgianna Lincoln